That I have turned away my former self;
So will I those that kept me company.
When thou dost hear I am as I have
been,
Approach me; and thou shalt be as thou
wast.
The tutor and the feeder of my riots:
Till then, I banish thee, on pain of
death,—
As I have done the rest of my
misleaders,—
Not to come near our person by ten
mile[2],

[2] Not to come near our person by ten mile.] Mr. Rowe observes, that many readers lament to see Falstaff so hardly used by his old friend. But if it be considered, that the fat knight has never uttered one sentiment of generosity, and with all his power of exciting mirth, has nothing in him that can be esteemed, no great pain will be suffered from the reflection that he is compelled to live honestly, and maintained by the King, with a promise of advancement when he shall deserve it.

I think the poet more blameable for Poins, who is always represented as joining some virtues with his vices, and is therefore treated by the Prince with apparent distinction, yet he does nothing in the time of action: and though after the bustle is over he is again a favourite, at last vanishes without notice. Shakspeare certainly lost him by heedlessness, in the multiplicity of his characters, the variety of his action, and his eagerness, to end the play. JOHNSON.

The dismission of Falstaff was founded on an historical fact. Stowe says, that "King Henry, after his coronation, called unto him all those young lords and gentlemen that were the followers of his youngsters, to every one of whom he gave rich gifts: and then commanded, that as many as would change their manners, as he intended to do, should abide with him in his court: and to all that would persevere in their former like conversation, he gave express commandment, upon pain of their heads, never after that day to come in his presence." STEEVENS.

This circumstance was originally mentioned by Hall, and is thus recorded by Holinshe'd, who was certainly Shakspeare's historian: "Immediately after that he was invested kyng, and had receyved the crowne, he determined with himselfe to putte upon him the shape of a new man, turning insolence and

wildness into gravitie and sobernesse: and whereas he had passed his youth in, wanton pastime and riotous misorder, with a sorte of misgoverned mates, and unthriftie playfeers, he now banished them from his- presence, (not unrewarded nor yet unpreferred,) *inhibiting them upon a great payne, not once to approche, lodge or soiourne within ten miles of his courte or mansion:* and in their places he elected